

MeadWestvaco Corporation *Papers Group*
35 Hartford Street
Rumford, ME 04276

MeadWestvaco

August 15, 2003

Ms. Dawn Gallagher, Commissioner
Maine Department of Environmental Protection
17 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0017

Dear Commissioner Gallagher:

LD1137, "An Act Regarding Riverine Impoundments," provides the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) with the authority to adopt a compliance depth for dissolved oxygen in stratified riverine impoundments, including Gulf Island Pond. The Department has chosen to establish a stakeholder group to participate in this process. The attached submittal reviews the technologies and the total costs for the specified phosphorus reductions for the three Androscoggin pulp and paper mills combined. The technologies and combined costs for 1/6, 1/3, 40%, 50%, and 67% reductions in phosphorus for the three mills is found in Table ES-2 on page 3 of the executive summary.

MeadWestvaco has invited the Maine DEP to initiate a formal Phosphorus Pollution Prevention Partnership (P4) and continues to be interested in forming this partnership. While awaiting a response from the Department, the mill has initiated some trials with lower phosphorus residuals. However, the requested joint team would provide a preferable means to effectively optimize the balance between providing the phosphorus required for the mill's biological treatment plant while minimizing the impact on the Androscoggin River.

The added capital and operating costs of the different oxygen diffuser options and different BOD/TSS reductions have been submitted in separate submittals. If you have any questions, please contact me at (207)369-2302 or Scott Reed at (207) 369-2203.

Sincerely,

Mike Sinclair
Environmental Engineer

cc: Ms. Deborah Garrett – Maine DEP